

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 USIE-00

NSC-10 NSCE-00 SS-20 SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-10 EA-11

NEA-10 DRC-01 SAM-01 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 /161 W

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O R 012158Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2027

AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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MONTREAL FOR US REPRESENTATIVE ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN SG XX BR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR--SENEGALESE PROPOSAL TO ICAO COUNCIL

FOR ADDITION TO 1974 ICAO ASSEMBLY AGENDA OF ITEM CALLING

FOR NEW PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF ICAO COUNCIL

REF: STATE 40163

1. EMBASSY AND CONGEN RIO HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT PROPOSAL WITH FONOFF AND CIVAIR OFFICIALS WHO WERE FULLY AWARE OF ISSUE AND INDICATED GOB HAS BEEN GRAPPLING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS WITH DIFFICULTIES OF WHAT POSITION TO TAKE AT COUNCIL MEETING. GOB AGREES THAT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL IS UNDESIRABLE ACD RECOGNIZES VALIDITY OF REASONS FOR US OPPOSITION.

HOWEVER, THEY SEE ISSUE AS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND BELIEVE THAT PROPOSAL HAS STRONG AFRICAN-ARAB SUPPORT. THEY WOULD LIKE TO OPPOSE PROPOSAL BUT ARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO IF OPPOSITION WOULD OFFEND AFRICANS AND ARABS. AT PRESENT, GOB POSITION IS TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICANS TO

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WORK FOR MODIFICATIONS OF PROPOSAL OR (AND THEY RECOGNIZE

POSSIBILITY IS REMOTE) GET SENEGALESE TO WITHDRAW IT. CHAIRMAN OF INTER-AGENCY CIVIL POLICY BOARD SAID THAT IF OTHER LATIN AMERICANS AGREE TO OPPOSE PROPOSAL, GOB REPRESENTATIVE WOULD ALSO OPPOSE. FONOFF OFFICIAL ASKED IF USG WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A MODIFIED PROPOSAL. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT ON BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED, US WAS WORKING FOR OUTRIGHT REJECTION RATHER THAN MODIFICATION.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS EMBASSY AND CONGEN OFFICERS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DECISIVE ACTION AT COUNCIL MEETING SO THAT ISSUE WOULD NOT ARISE AT ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER. FONOFF OFFICIALS RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO POINT CONTAINED REFTEL THAT MAJORITY OF COUNCIL OPPOSED PROPOSAL AND THEY INDICATED THAT ABSENCE OF UNITED SUPPORT AMONG AFRICANS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOB TO OPPOSE.

3 COMMENT: BRAZILIANS WOULD LIKE TO DEFEAT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL BUT BELIEVE THAT IT HAS ENOUGH AFRICAN-ARAB SUPPORT TO BE RAISED AND PASSED AT ASSEMBLY EVEN IF COUNCIL DOES NOT APPROVE. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL GOB STANCE OF AVOIDING ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT ANTAGONIZE AFRICAN-ARAB BLOC, BRAZILIANS ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT JEOPARDIZING THEIR REELECTION AS CATEGORY I MEMBER. NEVERTHELESS GOB POSITION APPEARS TO HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY. FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE GOING TO GOB REP OVER WEEKEND. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT LOBBYING IN MONTREAL WITH BRAZILIANS AND OTHER LA'S MIGHT INFLUENCE THEIR POSITION, PARTICULARLY IF THEY CAN BE CONVINCED THAT ISSUE IS NOT A DC-AFRICAN-ARAB CONFRONTATION. WE STRESSED POINT THAT OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT INDICATE THAT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL HAS UNITED AFRICAN-ARAB SUPPORT.

CRIMMINS

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